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PLANS FOR REGIONAL DESIGNATIONS OF SEASONAL FRESH VEGETABLES UNDER THE FOOD ORDER STAMP PLAN /1

In a move to make the Food Order Stamp Plan more flexible for both growers and Stamp Plan participants, the Department of Agriculture will announce on Friday, June 7, the addition of seasonal surplus fresh vegetables to the list of surplus commodities exchangeable for blue food stamps in designated Stamp Plan areas. The vegetables to be added, by regions, to the list of surplus commodities are those grown in nearby producing areas for consumption in fresh form.

Under authorization of Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, the first seasonal surpluses designated will become effective for the period from June 10 to June 30. The vegetables so designated will be announced and listed in retail food stores in the food stamp areas in the regions in which they are in surplus, together with the other agricultural commodities which are being designated as surplus foods in all Stamp Plan areas. These will include all the commodities on the present official surplus list except apples, pears, and grapefruit.

The commodities which continue on the surplus list for all areas, beginning June 10, are butter, raisins, rice, pork, pork lard, corn meal, shell eggs, dried prunes, fresh oranges, hominy grits, dry edible beans, wheat flour, and whole wheat (graham) flour. In addition, seasonal surplus vegetables will be on the list between June 10 and June 30 as follows:

- 1. Peas and cabbage in the Stamp Plan areas of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
- 2. Peas and spinach in the Stamp Plan areas of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- 3. Cabbage and carrots in the Stamp Plan areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.
- 4. Snap beans, beets, carrots, cabbage, and spinach in the Stamp Plan areas of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

^{/1} Prepared for the Extension Service by the Division of Information of the Surplus Marketing Administration.

Under the Secretary's authorization, it is possible to cope effectively with seasonal trends in production and rapid changes in marketing conditions in any area, and for relatively short periods of time, through Stamp Plan operations.

Surplus vegetable designations will be reexamined periodically for continuation or removal from surplus food lists in line with seasonal changes in supply and marketing conditions.

Under the authorization, increased consumption is expected of those vegetables which are produced primarily for nearby markets and which represent a substantial portion of the total annual production of vegetables.

In addition to including seasonal surplus vegetables on Food Stamp Plan lists, it is planned that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation will continue direct purchases of surplus vegetables under the truck crops purchase program which has been in effect during the last two years. Vegetables purchased under this program are donated to State relief agencies for direct distribution to needy people.

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